

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Morrissey, please, followed by Senator Schmit.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Yes, Senator Schmit, a question. On the...you mentioned a confirmation of the Ethanol Board members by the Legislature. Could you expand on that a little bit?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Under LB 587, I took away the confirmation of Ethanol Authority members by the Legislature. This reinstates that language and at one time we did have in here language similar to the confirmation by Mr. Thorson that we used for the DEC where if no one was confirmed within 10 days the Governor had to appoint someone new. We removed that language.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: You removed that language so if...and the language you put back in is if they aren't confirmed by the Legislature then what?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Then you remain just the way they are today, Senator. And the reason I took that language out was that Senator Coordsen told me that his committee was going to do research this coming year on all such appointments and try to make them all consistent and compatible with each other and so I took it out.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Okay, thank you. That's all I have.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President and members, as you know, the plant at Hastings has been a very, very deep concern of all of us, particularly of Senator Jacklyn Smith, whose district it is located in, and it is an area where we feel it is very important that we try to do something to encourage the sale of that plant. The plant, as you know at the present time, is an asset of FSLIC and we feel that this type of amendment will encourage that plant to get into private hands and get back into the mainstream so that they can, once again, hedge the purchase of their grain and the sale of their alcohol. It ought to encourage the expansion of the plant. We hope it will encourage the utilization of the new techniques, perhaps, in distillation, new techniques in the use of raw materials, new techniques in the use of distillers wet grains versus dry grains, many other aspects which we feel are very important if ethanol production is going to be profitable and economically feasible in the years